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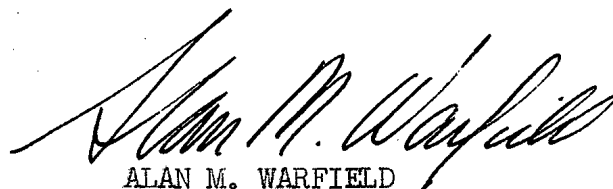
TO : DAD/NE

DATE: 29 January 1954

FROM : Chief, FBID

SUBJECT: SNIE 11-54

Attached report on the level of hostilities indicators in Soviet domestic newscasts is submitted in support of subject estimate.

  
ALAN M. WARFIELD

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*Propaganda XXIII*

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HOSTILITIES INDICATORS IN SOVIET NEWSCASTS

1. The analysis of Soviet domestic newscasts for elements of psychological preparation for war yields at this time no evidence of increased expectation of hostilities. On the contrary, the level of such elements has in general declined during the past two years and for the last quarter of 1953 stood well below the median of the five preceding quarters.

2. Quantitative data on the chief indicators is summarized in the following table. The raw material consists of Soviet Home Service news items relating to foreign affairs and to domestic military activities. All such items are graded within one of two categories, (1) those which tend to increase tension in respect to war, and (2) those which tend to reduce it. Figures represent percentages of the total number of items.

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	<u>June 1952-September 1953</u>		<u>4th Quarter 1953</u>	
	Median			
	<u>Increase Tension</u>	<u>Decrease Tension</u>	<u>Increase Tension</u>	<u>Decrease Tension</u>
<u>WESTERN CAMP</u>				
Military				
Increasing Tension	6		7	
Aggression				
Quasi-military actions (ma- neuvers, espionage, etc.)				
Military preparations (bases, pacts, rearmament)				
Reducing Tension		3		7
Military disunity (NATO dis- agreements, etc.)				
Military weakness (mutiny, etc.)				
Political				
Increasing Tension	10		6	
Acts hostile or unfriendly to USSR or Orbit				
Persecution of Communists, peace fighters				
Reducing Tension		29		34
Political disunity				
Resistance to Western govern- ments (strikes, etc.)				
Friendship of Westerners for USSR or Orbit				
<u>SOVIET CAMP</u>				
Military (Soviet Armed might)				
All increasing tension (Anniversaries)	2.5		2.5	
Political				
Increasing Tension	.02		1.5	
Wreckers and saboteurs				
Reducing Tension		29		31
<u>INTER-CAMP</u>				
Increasing Tension	12		5	
Korean War				
Reducing Tension		6		4
UN, negotiations, etc.	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	31	67	22	76

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### 3. Observations

The slight increase in the Western military tension-increasing category is related to recent U.S. actions in connection with alliances and the acquisition of military bases. The indictment and sentencing of Beria resulted in an increase in the Soviet political tension-increasing category.

Soviet adoption of a war policy, it is expected, would be reflected in a general increase of the ratio of tension-building to tension-reducing items, in an increased emphasis on military matters, both Western and Soviet, or in an increased volume of the more intense items of each tension-building group at the expense of less critical ones, as by more items in the Western military category on military overt actions, with fewer on preparations.

No such trends have developed. On the contrary, the movement for the past eighteen months has been away from psychological conditioning for war. The spring of 1952, during the BW campaign when "Hate America" propaganda was at its height, saw the nearest approach in the last two years to war-conditioning. Since then, with a slight reversal at the time of the vigilance campaign following the Soviet doctor-plot in the first quarter of 1953, the trend has been toward an easing of tension elements in news broadcasts to the Soviet people.

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29 January 1954

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